

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application.

Claim 7 has been amended to replace the characters “(?)” with the word “anchored.” This amendment corrects a typographical error, and is supported, for example, by claim 14, which recites the same language. The specification has been amended to provide proper identification of trademarks, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

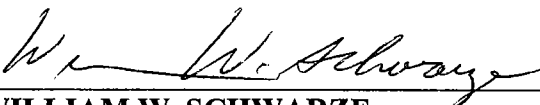
Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that claims 1-18 are allowed and that the application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters noted above. The Examiner states that the prior art does not disclose an electrolyte membrane held by a frame having an elastic modulus between about 2000 MPA and 2,000,000 MPA, and an elastic body having a modulus between zero and 200 MPA, where these are configured to provide fluid-tight seals between the peripheral portions of the membrane and adjoining separators. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Insofar as the Examiner's objection has been fully addressed, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Susumu Kobayashi, et al..

April 19, 2007
(Date)

By:



WILLIAM W. SCHWARZE

Registration No. 25,918

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013

Telephone: 215-965-1200

Direct Dial: 215-965-1270

Facsimile: 215-965-1210

E-Mail: wschwarze@akingump.com

Application No. 10/817,033
Reply to Office Action of January 21, 2007

WWS/ADL/rdb